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U.S. Warns Castro On Firing at Planes

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 20

The United States said today that its aerial reconnaissance flights over Cuba would continue indefinitely. It warned that any interference with them "could create a highly dangerous situation."

The State Department said it regarded the flights as "a necessity to avoid the deception" practiced when Soviet missile bases were constructed on the island in the fall of 1962.

Two possibly related developments brought about the Administration's warning.

Intelligence reports suggest

that the Soviet Union may be getting ready to give the Cubans control of the modern anti-aircraft missiles that remained in Cuba after the dismantling of offensive missile bases.

These reports were followed last night by a belligerent speech by Premier Fidel Castro, alleging violations of Cuba's sovereignty, including flights over the island. The Cuban leader, marking the third anniversary of the attempted invasion of 1961, did not specifically threaten to shoot down the U-2 and other reconnaissance planes. But he called on the crews of the ground-to-air rockets to be ready if the "violations" continued.

One U-2 was shot down over Cuba, presumably by a missile, during the crisis over offensive missiles in October, 1962. After the Soviet Union had withdrawn the long- and medium-range weapons and failed to persuade Premier Castro to permit international inspection of the island, it acquiesced in the intensive United States program of aerial surveillance.

The State Department said Soviet crews still controlled and operated the ground-to-air missile sites, but Cubans are being trained in the operation of the missiles and equipment.

Force Gradually Reduced

The number of Soviet troops on the island once believed to be as high as 22,000, has been gradually reduced to 3,000 to 4,000, all apparently engaged in training activities. The outward movement of troops continues, the State Department said. Officials here now believe the Soviet Union plans to leave only about 1,000 soldiers in Cuba.

Through its regular spokesman, Richard I. Phillips, the State Department acknowledged the possibility that operation and control of the anti-aircraft missile systems would be turned over to Cubans "in the near future." There has been no direct word from the Soviet Union on the subject, he said.

In view of this, Mr. Phillips went on, he was authorized to respond to questions with the following statements:

"The flights over Cuba are a substitute for the on-the-ground inspection agreed to by the Soviet Union at the end of the missile crisis in 1962 but never permitted by Premier Castro.

"The surveillance flights are 'thoroughly' based on a resolution approved by the Organization of American States on Oct.

23, 1962, at the start of the crisis.

"The United States regards them as necessary to avoid a repetition of the 1962 'deception.'"

"The State Department wishes to recall a statement by Secretary of State Dean Rusk in March, 1963, that 'if there were any interruptions with our surveillance . . . that could create a highly dangerous situation.'"

In complaining last night about United States violations of Cuban sovereignty, Dr. Castro referred both to activities at the United States naval base at Guantanamo and to flights through Cuban air space.

He said the Cubans were going to denounce these "facts" to the United Nations to warn the world that the United States bore responsibility for "what can happen because of its aggressive actions."

The Cuban leader described the prevailing situation as a "miserable peace." In what seemed to some a complaint against Soviet counsels of moderation, he said that "no theory, no doctrine, no revolutionary principle should force us to endure" such a peace.